Forest Development Agency

342. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the formation of Forest development Agency for implementation of forest development works takes place in forest divisions under the National Afforestation Plan;

(b) whether different conditions of climate, soil and bio-pressure prevailing in various States have been considered while prescribing ideal cost norms for forest development works under the said scheme;

(c) whether any proposals have been received from Rajasthan for amending the sanctioned cost norms for fencing of tree plantation area; and

(d) whether Government propose flexibility in Ideal Cost Norms according to the request made by Rajasthan State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Guidelines provide for model cost norms for various components of the FDA projects based on existing labour wage rate of the State.

(c) Yes, Sir. Proposals have been received from Rajasthan Forest Department for increasing the cost norms for fencing under NAP.

(d) The main objective of NAP is to regenerate degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation. NAP Guidelines, therefore, provide that the cost of fencing component should not normally exceed 5%. However, the guidelines also provide that for projects requiring higher allocation for fencing, funds to the extent of 10% of plantation cost may be expended by effecting matching reduction in the allocation under the component "Overheads".

Pollution of sea water on the West Coast

343. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sea water on the West Coast of India is polluted with hazardous chemicals;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra and Goa have taken any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), the Maharashtra Coast receives treated effluents from Common Effluents Treatment Plants (CETP) and waste water from cities and towns and from non point sources.

As per Goa Pollution Control Board except for oily substances in sea water in July 2005, no complaints of pollution in sea water due to hazardous chemicals have been received.

Regular monitoring and enforcement of environmental standards notified for protection of marine outfalls are being carried out by the State Pollution Control Boards Studies have also been carried out through Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, in case of specific incidence of pollution by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Pollution due to Nitrogen Dioxide in Delhi

344. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to increased use of CNG in Delhi, the level of nitrogen dioxide is increasing thereby polluting environment and causing ailments like asthma and bronchitis as per the recent air quality survey of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB); and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to reduce the level of nitrogen dioxide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The monitored data of